



**Approved
Town of Ridgefield
Water Pollution Control Authority**

**WPCA Regular Zoom Meeting
January 28, 2021 5:30 p.m.
66 Prospect Street
Ridgefield, Connecticut 06877**

WPCA: Amy Siebert, Gary Zawacki, Ron Hill, Maureen Kozlark,
Kevin Briody joined the meeting at 5:35 pm
Suez: Ryan Richmond, Jon Arneth, Michael Burke
AECOM: Jon Pearson, Matt Formica

**These are not verbatim minutes of the proceedings but identification of
general items and specific actions undertaken.**

Meeting held via ZOOM Video Teleconference.

WPCA Regular Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Ms. Siebert

1) New Business

- a) **Approval of Minutes.** Approval of December 17, 2020 minutes by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 4-0, Mr. Briody was not present for motion.
- b) **Review Connection Fee.** The WPCA will set up a workshop with Raftelis Financial Consultants to discuss the connection fees.

2) AECOM Report

a) **WWTF Upgrade Design**

Mr. Pearson indicated that as noted last month, AECOM completed the plans and specifications for the Route 7 PS and FM construction contract, and the completed documents were submitted to the DEEP for review on December 8th. At the same time, copies of the completed plans and specifications were also forwarded to the DOT, the Police Department (since the P&Z approval for the project requires that the Police Dept. confirm they are in agreement with the final traffic management plan), and to Charlie Fisher (since the P&Z permit approval required him to confirm he is in agreement with the open cut construction approach for the section through the Great Swamp on Farmingville Road.)

DEEP has not yet completed their review of the completed documents.

Captain Terzian from the RPD has reviewed the traffic management plans and is in agreement with the plans as presented with the exception of the work on the first stretch of Haviland Road from Route 7 to Still Road (approx. 800 ft). In this location he is requesting the force main construction be done at night to avoid creating a major traffic backup at Route 7. Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM is in agreement with Captain Terzian's request and will incorporate this change into the document, and AECOM has forwarded this information to Richard Baldelli at P&Z.

DOT has not yet responded to the submittal of the completed plans, and AECOM is following up with them on their review.

Charlie Fisher has reviewed the plans and has indicated he is in agreement with the open cut construction of the force main on Farmingville road, and Mr. Pearson confirmed they have forwarded this information to Richard Baldelli at P&Z. In addition, Mr. Fisher forwarded some preliminary drawings for a town project along Ligi's Way to add a pedestrian walking path/sidewalk from South Street to Farmingville Road, asking for a coordination review with the force main plans. The timing of the walking path project is not yet known. Ms. Kozlark noted the sidewalk project is planned to be funded by a grant, so the timing of construction may not yet be defined. Mr. Pearson stated that AECOM is currently reviewing the plans but have noted several concerns:

1. On the walking path plans, the 24" WWTF outfall pipe is mislabeled as a storm drain, and a new catch basin is being constructed that is shown to connect into the outfall pipe at a new manhole constructed on the outfall pipe. AECOM suggested that this is a concern due to the added stormwater flow causing hydraulic issues in the outfall, and the need to segregate treated effluent discharge (regulated by the plant NPDES permit) from stormwater (regulated by the MS4 permit). The WPCA agreed that comments should be provided to Mr. Fisher that no stormwater be connected into the outfall pipe.
2. Where the walking path crosses the brook that passes under Ligi's way, the walking path will be constructed on a pedestrian footbridge. The footings for this footbridge appear to be located on top of the outfall pipe at the brook culvert, and at about the same elevation as the outfall pipe. Mr. Pearson suggested comments be provided to Mr. Fisher requesting additional details of the footbridge foundation and how the outfall pipe would be protected, and the WPCA agreed with this suggestion.

Mr. Pearson will provide comments back to Mr. Fisher once AECOM completes a review of the walking path plans, copying the WPCA on the comments.

b) South Street WWTF Upgrade Construction

i) Construction Status.

Mr. Pearson noted that the monthly construction progress call was held earlier today, with Ms. Van Ness, Mr. Zawacki, and Mr. Richmond attending. Mr. Formica provided an update on major construction activities this month covering the following:

- Modifications to the Control Building are continuing, with extensive plumbing and electrical work ongoing. The new boiler has been installed in the lower level of the building.
- In the Chemical Building the precast roof planks were installed and grouted in place.
- The concrete foundation footings and walls for the Electrical Building were placed and the work to form and reinforce the floor slab is ongoing.
- Work continues on a number of underground electrical ductbanks and manholes, as well as the site storm drainage system.
- Final Settling Tank No.1 was taken out of service on Jan. 19th, the old rotating mechanism has been demolished along with the weirs and baffles, and installation of the new mechanism is underway.
- Work on the piping and ductbanks around the Blower Building foundation has been completed and the concrete building footings have been constructed
- Some of the excess excavated material that had a low level of contamination with pesticides has been hauled off for disposal under the allowance in the contract.
- In Aeration Tank No. 1, Installation of rotating scum pipe is complete and the Mixed Liquor Recycle piping is underway.

- ii) **Construction Schedule.** Mr. Pearson informed the WPCA that Spectraserv submitted their written request for an extension of time of 160 calendar days on January 11th due to Covid related delays. Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM is currently reviewing the request and will have a recommendation on it for the next meeting. The request is for additional time, and in accordance with the contract documents, Spectraserv is not entitled to additional compensation on this issue. In response to a question, Mr. Pearson noted that additional costs could be incurred for AECOM to provide services for the time extension period, but it is premature to be able to assess whether this will be the case. There is also the risk that the new phosphorus removal system may not in service by the April 1, 2022 date in the Administrative Order.
- iii) **Progress Payment.** AECOM submitted Progress Payment No. 16 for the South Street WWTF Upgrade for Spectraserv that covers the month of December in the amount of \$1,506,442.14 and the WPCA approved for payment.
- iv) **Clean Water Fund.** Mr. Pearson updated the WPCA that after last month's meeting, the sixth Clean Water Fund payment request was submitted to DEEP on the South Street WWTF Upgrade and this will continue to be a monthly routine going forward.
- v) **Change Order No. 1.** Mr. Pearson discussed that the first construction change order for Spectraserv has been prepared and the proposed change order was distributed via email yesterday. The change order addresses 8 items with a total value of \$24,469.37. All of the items, as well as the total change order amount, are below the \$25,000 threshold that was established where prior approval of the WPCA was required. The change order was discussed, and Mr. Pearson noted that in the current project budget for the South Street WWTF Upgrade, a contingency was carried to address changes and unknown items, as is typically done for all municipal capital projects. The contingency amount on the South Street project is \$2,640,000 and this

is the first change order to use these funds. AECOM is tracking the utilization of the contingency and will continue to do so. Mr. Pearson had previously noted that we expect the allowance in the contract for disposal of excess excavated material will be exceeded, and this will need to tap into the contingency at a future point as well. Motion to approve Change Order No.1 by Ms. Kozlark and seconded by Mr. Zawacki, passing 5-0. In response to a question from Mr. Briody, Mr. Pearson noted that AECOM recently received several larger potential change proposals that AECOM will be prepared to discuss at next month's meeting where a decision will need to be made on them.

- vi) **NPDES Permit/Administrative Order.** Recently the DEEP had provided a preliminary draft renewed NPDES permit for the Route 7 WWTF prior to the draft permit being publicly advertised for comments. On behalf of the WPCA, AECOM prepared and submitted comments to the DEEP, which they accepted, and expect that the revised draft permit will go to public notice shortly.

Mr. Pearson noted that the Administrative Order issued by DEEP to defer the new phosphorus limits for the South Street WWTF also requires quarterly progress reports describing the actions taken to date to comply with this order be submitted to the DEEP at the end of March, June, September, and December. On behalf of the WPCA AECOM prepared and submitted the December progress report to DEEP.

3) **Suez Report.**

- a) Mr. Richmond presented Suez Environmental report for December 2020.
- b) Mr. Burke introduced Mr. Arneith to the WPCA. He will be taking over Mr. Burke's responsibilities as Area Manager.
- c) Mr. Burke requested the WPCA review the upcoming Suez contract. Ms. Siebert suggested the WPCA discuss the contract options.
- d) Mr. Richmond stated that the Qual Ridge Pump Station generator is no longer producing sufficient power to run the pumps. Suez further explored installing the new generator for the relocated Quail Ridge PS in the existing station, but the new station and generator are designed for 3 phase power and the existing station is single phase, so that is not viable. Different options were explored and a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) will be installed on one of the two pumps next week. The VFD will transform the incoming single phase power to three phase, bypassing the phase converter, and allow the pump to start gradually rather than a full load start at full speed, reducing the power demand on the generator to a level, it is believed, that will allow the generator to run the pump. The VFD has a significantly lower cost than replacing the exiting generator.

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting at 6:30 pm by Ms. Kozlark, seconded by Mr. Hill, passing 5-0.

Submitted by Diana Van Ness